

Joint Blue Force Situational Awareness (JBFSA)

The Marine Corps is developing expanded Blue Force Situational Awareness (BFSA) capabilities that address the interoperability shortfalls existing between the numerous Blue Force (friendly force) tracking and situational awareness systems in use today, and to define the capabilities required to achieve a joint solution in the future. Although valuable, today's service-specific Blue Force Tracking (BFT) systems tend to operate independently with separate types of mission-profile support, user devices, information-dissemination architectures, and messaging standards.

Using lessons learned from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and contributing their knowledge to the Joint BFSA (JBFSA) effort, the Marine Corps and Army developed a strategy to converge to a single, joint BFT capability that will allow units on the battlefield to see, and be seen by, nearby units without having to contend with equipment integration issues and communication constraints. Near term efforts to standardize operational architectures, align software baselines, and harmonize with Combat Identification (CID) initiatives will contribute significantly toward solving the interoperability challenges associated with achieving a single land component

picture and disseminating information needed for improved battlespace situational awareness.

When implemented across the services, DoD agencies, and coalition forces, the objective JBFSA systems will result in the seamless sharing, distribution, and display of Blue Force information to improve overall situational awareness. It will identify, classify, and characterize the status of joint and coalition forces operating throughout the battlespace, both within and beyond the line of sight, and will operate globally, providing 24/7 support to the full spectrum of operations (from major combat to peacetime engagement), as well as stability and sustainment operations, and home-station training. Future conflicts will involve unpredictable enemy actions on an asymmetrical battlefield, requiring greater functional coordination across all battlespace domains for conducting Distributed Operations. This increased coordination will rely upon the rapid and widespread dissemination of all Blue Force location, status and intent. Marine Corps' BFSA efforts will focus on improved data retrieval, dissemination, correlation, filtering, and data fusion methods that promote fratricide avoidance and enhance the Marine Corps' ability to conduct Distributed Operations.